

December 2012 / January 2013

Sonoma Clean Power Update and Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Sonoma Clean Power Monthly Update

Sonoma Clean Power is a community choice aggregation (CCA) program currently undergoing investigation and development through the Sonoma County Water Agency. CCA programs allow cities and counties to form a service area to purchase and deliver electricity to their residents. Sonoma Clean Power is being studied because it may provide multiple benefits including offering a cleaner electricity supply as well as developing local renewable energy projects.

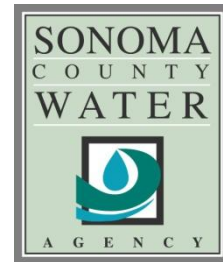
The purpose of this monthly newsletter is to provide a regular stream of information regarding the CCA effort to the public and interested parties. We thank you for your interest in this project and please let us know if you have any feedback.

Draft Implementation Plan Completed

A draft Implementation Plan was completed in October of 2012. The draft [Implementation Plan](#) is essentially a business plan for Sonoma Clean Power and is located at the project [website](#) along with an [executive summary](#). The Implementation Plan will remain in draft form until formally adopted by the Board of the joint powers authority.

Joint Powers Authority Formed

On December 4, 2012 the Sonoma County Water Agency's Board of Directors and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved the formation of the Sonoma Clean Power Authority as a joint powers authority. Formation of this legal entity will allow for the issuance of a request for proposals (RFP) to potential power providers. This RFP process will yield pricing information from power providers and result in the ability to determine likely electricity rates for Sonoma Clean Power customers.



Upcoming Public Forum Presentations

January 23, 2013 at 6:30pm -
City of Cloverdale

For more information, contact
[Amy Bolten](#).

Upcoming Non-Public Presentations (Private Organizations)

January 4, 2013 - Rotary Club of
Sebastopol

For more information, contact
[Amy Bolten](#).

Follow-up Links

[AB 117](#)
[SB 790](#)
[Feasibility study](#)
[Residential market survey](#)
[Commercial market survey](#)
[November Newsletter](#)
[October Newsletter](#)

At this time, the joint powers authority is comprised of the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, which are the same sitting Board members. The eight eligible cities of Sonoma County will be encouraged to participate in the joint powers authority prior to adoption of the draft Implementation Plan.

Local CCA News:

SLO County Contemplates CCA

San Luis Obispo (SLO) continues to explore CCA as the concept spreads throughout the County. Eric Veium of the non-profit SLO County Clean Energy Economy Coalition and Shawn Marshall, founder of LEAN Energy US and former Board member of the Marin Energy Authority, have been meeting with local elected officials and other community leaders to discuss some of the benefits SLO County residents could see from localized green energy.

The [SLO County Clean Energy Economy Coalition](#) advocates local development of clean energy, with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating local jobs. "We see the development of local energy as a key aspect of San Luis Obispo County moving forward," Veium said.

County planner James Caruso said community choice "certainly could hold potential" for SLO County, and said a feasibility analysis would be the first step.

Read the full November 22, 2012 *New Times* story located [here](#).

East Bay Utility Rejects CCA

Earlier this month efforts toward an East Bay CCA were stalled when the East Bay Municipal Utility District board voted against further study of the program. "I see (a CCA as) of no benefit for us," said Castro Valley-area EBMUD director Frank Mellon. "If the cities, indeed, want to form a (joint powers agreement) and have us as an administrator, that's fine. We get paid. We're not investing in it; we're not the ones that are taking the losses." Rather than spending funds on further study, the board suggested the cities expressing interest -- Berkeley, Oakland, Albany and Emeryville -- should create a CCA on their own.

Berkeley Vice Mayor Linda Maio, who had urged the board to continue studying the plan, said she was "astonished and saddened" by the board's reaction. The cities of Berkeley, Albany and parts of Oakland and Doug Linney, representing San Lorenzo, Alameda and West Oakland, argued for more study. They contended EBMUD, with an established structure and a positive record administering energy-related resources, has a need to fight climate change.

[General Information](#)
[Draft Implementation Plan](#)

Project Timeline

March 22, 2011 - Board of Directors directs staff to investigate the creation of a CCA

October 13, 2011 - Feasibility Study Completed

April 10, 2012 - Board of Directors directs Water Agency to prepare an implementation plan and pursue the formation of a JPA

July, 2012 - Draft JPA to cities and county for review

September 2012 - Potential power providers interviewed

October 2012 - Draft Implementation Plan received

December 4, 2012 - Joint Powers Authority formed

Projected Milestone Dates:

February 2013 - Request for Proposals to potential power providers to be released

Board member Lesa McIntosh, representing the San Pablo-Hercules area, said her concern was the higher rates charged in Marin. However, advocates argued that customers can opt out of a CCA and stay with PG&E.

Read the full December 13, 2012 *Mercury News* story located [here](#).

CCAs Around the Country: **Ohio Blazes the Trail for CCA Efforts**

Ohio hosts the nation's largest community choice aggregation through the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC). This CCA consists of 170 member communities encompassing 500,000 customers across ten counties. The aggregation was formed in November of 2000 and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives from each of NOPEC's member counties.

As a non-profit, pro-consumer organization, NOPEC's main focus is to bring the lowest cost energy possible to the residents and businesses of northeast Ohio. Since 2000, NOPEC estimates that they have saved their region over \$160M in energy expenses.

Learn more about NOPEC at their [website](#).